Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2016
Supplement No. 23

E/2016/43-E/C.19/2016/11

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the fifteenth session (9-20 May 2016)

United Nations • New York, 2016

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ISSN 1728-0060

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
International expert group meeting on the theme "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: the role of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other indigenous-specific mechanisms (article 42)"

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: the role of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other indigenous-specific mechanisms (article 42)".

Draft decision II
Venue and dates for the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 24 April to 5 May 2017.

Draft decision III
Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda for its sixteenth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifteenth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum as set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
   (a) Empowerment of indigenous women;
   (b) Indigenous youth.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 23* (E/2016/43).

4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. Dialogue with indigenous peoples.

6. Dialogue with Member States.

7. Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

8. Discussion on the theme "Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration".

9. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regard to indigenous human rights defenders.

11. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:

    (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies or other measures;

    (b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations;

    (c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples.

12. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

13. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session.

14. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixteenth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Economic and Social Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.

3. It is the understanding of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum that those proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations, as set out below, will be implemented to the extent possible within the context of the approved programme of work of the relevant entities.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

International expert group meeting on the theme "Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)"

4. This expert group meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 January 2016, was the second international expert group meeting on indigenous languages. The meeting built upon the findings and recommendations of the expert group meeting on the principles of cultural diversity and indigenous languages as a way to promote intercultural dialogue and affirm indigenous peoples' identity, held in 2008.

5. Indigenous languages form the bedrock of continuity for the survival and well-being of indigenous cultures from one generation to the next. This important intergenerational responsibility has been severely disrupted by colonialism and colonial practices, laws, policies and practices of discrimination, assimilation, forced relocation and residential and boarding schools, among others.

6. There is a growing crisis of indigenous language loss and in many cases an urgent, even desperate, need to preserve and revitalize languages. It is estimated that more than half of the world's languages will become extinct by 2100 (see E/C.19/2005/7). The vast majority of languages under threat are indigenous languages. It is in this context that the expert group meeting on indigenous languages was convened. The outcome of the meeting was the report (E/C.19/2016/10), which provided significant and pertinent recommendations to indigenous peoples, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and States.

7. A significant underlying objective of all preservation and revitalization efforts is the absolute necessity of producing ever-growing numbers of fluent language speakers. The 35 recommendations contained in the report, together with the substantive recommendations on indigenous languages contained in the report of the international expert group meeting on indigenous languages held in 2008 (see E/C.19/2008/3), provide considerable expert opinion and guidance on the preservation and revitalization of indigenous languages that require careful consideration and effective implementation by indigenous peoples, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and States. This will require a considerable depth of political will by the United Nations system, States and civil society, in addition to the infusion of the financial commitments necessary to realize significant gains in preservation and revitalization efforts.

8. There are successful examples, but too few, of indigenous-led efforts on language preservation and revitalization, such as those by native Hawaiians. The Permanent Forum welcomes the new Indigenous Peoples Language Caucus, established by indigenous peoples to ensure ongoing guidance on initiatives for the preservation and revitalization of indigenous languages and to provide for the development of the necessary mass of public knowledge and support. The caucus needs to be supported by the United Nations system, States and civil society. The Sustainable Development Goals demand that no one should be left behind. In this

spirit, given that languages are integral to the well-being of all peoples, no indigenous language should be left behind or allowed to die.

9. The Permanent Forum recommends that States recognize the language rights of indigenous peoples and develop language policies to promote and protect indigenous languages, with a focus on high-quality education in indigenous languages, including by supporting full immersion methods such as language nests and innovative methods such as nomadic schools. It is essential that States develop evidence-based legislation and policies to promote and protect indigenous languages and, in that regard, they should collect and disseminate baseline information on the status of indigenous languages. These activities should be conducted in close cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned.

10. The Permanent Forum recommends that States and the United Nations system, including United Nations country teams, provide support, including funding, for the efforts of indigenous peoples' institutions to preserve and revitalize their languages, with the particular goal of fluency. Such efforts may include the sharing of positive experiences and the establishment of informal networks or caucuses involved in the promotion and revitalization of indigenous languages, as well as the use of information and communications technology in indigenous languages. It is important that States provide adequate funding for language revitalization and the preservation of cultural heritage as it relates to indigenous languages. In addition, States should facilitate funding for indigenous language projects from external donors, including the private sector, in accordance with law.

11. The Permanent Forum recommends that the General Assembly, by 2020, proclaim an international year of indigenous languages and draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels.

12. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNESCO, with the participation of indigenous peoples, urgently declare as the organization's priority the preservation, revitalization and promotion of indigenous languages. UNESCO is also urged to initiate international processes for the establishment of international standards on the preservation of indigenous languages. In particular, the Forum recommends that UNESCO collaborate with efforts led by indigenous peoples and others to map indigenous languages, such as the Endangered Languages Project.

Studies prepared by members of the Permanent Forum

13. At its fourteenth session, in 2015, the Permanent Forum appointed Valmaine Toki to conduct a study on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean and Edward John and Dalee Sambo Dorough to conduct a study on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law.

14. In the light of the study by Ms. Toki on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean and the dire effects of climate change, such as forced relocation and the loss of culture and livelihood, on vulnerable small island Pacific States, the Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations entities, including UN-Oceans, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and

UNESCO, in addition to the International Seabed Authority, comply with and implement the relevant articles of the United Nations Declaration (arts. 18, 27 and 32), so as to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples. This should include meaningful participation, such as dedicated indigenous representation within each of these United Nations entities, and regard for indigenous peoples' world views.

15. In reference to the study by Mr. John and Ms. Dorough on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration and other international human rights law, the Permanent Forum recommends that all funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums begin to reform their respective procedural rules, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, with the aim of ensuring compliance and consistency with the human rights affirmed in the Declaration.

16. Recalling the study on decolonization of the Pacific region (see E/C.19/2013/12), the Permanent Forum invites the relevant States to provide information on the status of the situation of the indigenous peoples concerned to the Permanent Forum at its sixteenth session.

Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration

17. This session attracted a number of speakers representing Governments, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous peoples. High-level speakers included government ministers, the Vice-President of Guyana and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the President of the Sami Parliament in Norway and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Canada. A large number of speakers reported on the need to repeal oppressive laws and practices that encroached upon the rights of indigenous peoples. The debates also included the need to improve the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of health, education, human rights, economic and social development, environment and culture.

Human rights

18. The Permanent Forum welcomes the endorsement by Canada of the United Nations Declaration, without qualification. The Forum looks forward to its immediate implementation, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, as a critical step in the reconciliation process between indigenous peoples and the State.

19. The Permanent Forum expresses its appreciation to the Government of Guatemala and organizations of indigenous peoples, especially the Organismo Naleb', for the support provided to hold the preparatory meeting for the fifteenth session of the Forum in Guatemala from 10 to 16 April 2016. The Forum appreciates the country's openness and dialogue with indigenous peoples' organizations, women's and youth organizations, the private sector, media and the United Nations country team, as well as the dialogue among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the Government. The Forum calls upon States to propose and host the preliminary sessions of the Forum in the future.

20. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiation of a national dialogue to discuss and achieve key constitutional reforms in the field of justice in Guatemala, and encourages the recognition of indigenous justice systems. The Forum urges Guatemala and the private sector, in addition to the World Bank and other international economic institutions, to acknowledge that serious efforts require structural economic and social reforms rather than rapid growth of gross domestic product in order to reverse widespread and growing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Guatemala. Such crucial reforms must ensure more equitable distribution and access to traditional lands for the indigenous peoples of Guatemala, consistent with the rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration, and on the basis of respect for and legal recognition of their collective rights, including their self-determined development. Furthermore, the Forum calls upon Guatemala to reinforce the effective and full implementation of the Peace Accords.

21. In accordance with international law, the Permanent Forum recommends that all States members of the Organization of American States recognize and respect that the United Nations Declaration constitutes the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the world, and requests them to ensure that the draft American declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples is consistent with or exceeds the standards affirmed in the United Nations Declaration.

22. The Permanent Forum calls upon States to support the activities of representative institutions of indigenous peoples and to avoid any practice of limitation of such activities. The Forum urges all States to enable the functioning of indigenous peoples' institutions, in accordance with articles 5, 18 and 19 of the United Nations Declaration, as well as its spirit and intent.

23. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the contributions of national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, and welcomes their participation in future sessions of the Forum.

24. The Permanent Forum welcomes the Alternative Communication and Information Caucus of Indigenous Peoples and its work on public education through dissemination of information, especially through community radio, on the United Nations Declaration and the system-wide action plan on achieving the ends of the Declaration.

25. The Permanent Forum remains concerned about the many indigenous peoples across the world, in particular in Africa and Asia, who lack legal and political recognition as indigenous peoples or even face the denial of their existence as indigenous peoples. Such denial of status and existence as indigenous peoples results in the violation of their human rights, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration, the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other international human rights instruments, including the right to self-determination, culture, lands, territories and resources, traditional economies, free, prior and informed consent and redress, reparations and recourse.

26. Considering the calls by the Sami of Finland and the indigenous peoples of Canada, among others, the Permanent Forum respectfully requests that all Member States that have not done so take action to ratify ILO Convention No. 169.

27. The Permanent Forum acknowledges those States that have developed national action plans on indigenous peoples, and commends the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on the enactment of a law on socioeconomic development that incorporates the rights set forth in the United Nations Declaration.

28. Consistent with articles 18 and 19 of the United Nations Declaration and in line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the call to "leave no one behind", the Permanent Forum strongly recommend that States and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system ensure the disaggregation of data on the basis of indigenous identifiers/ethnicity and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in developing and monitoring national action plans and in all processes relating to the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

29. Considering the statements made by Brazil at the fifteenth session, the Permanent Forum welcomes the willingness of the Government to engage in dialogue concerning the status, conditions and rights of the indigenous peoples of Brazil, many of whom have faced the suspension of the land demarcation process. The Forum respectfully requests Brazil to uphold its national and international obligations to recognize and respect the human rights of indigenous peoples, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169. Furthermore, the Forum urges the interim Government of Brazil to safeguard the status of the National Indian Foundation and its mandate with regard to the indigenous peoples of Brazil.

30. Taking into account the challenges faced by States in the implementation of their international obligation to consult with and obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, the Permanent Forum commits itself to developing an international guide to facilitate the implementation of these principles in accordance with the standards established in the United Nations Declaration. The Forum invites the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to collaborate on this initiative.

31. Mauna Kea, the sacred mountain for native Hawaiians, is currently targeted for the placement of an international observatory featuring a 30-metre telescope. Such an activity inhibits and is contrary to the rights articulated in articles 11 and 12 of the United Nations Declaration. In addition, the Permanent Forum strongly recommends that the free, prior and informed consent of native Hawaiians be recognized.

Economic and social development

32. The Permanent Forum appreciates the willingness of Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth to make visible the situation of indigenous youth, in particular concerning suicide and self-harm, in his advocacy. The Forum calls upon Member States to implement the recommendations of the international expert group meeting on indigenous youth, held in 2013 (see E/C.19/2013/3), in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and with the full participation of indigenous youth. The Forum invites the Network to report on progress in this regard at the sixteenth session of the Forum. The Forum invites the Network and the Envoy to increase the participation of indigenous youth in the

sessions of the Forum and all relevant United Nations forums, and to report on progress in this regard at the sixteenth session of the Forum.

33. The Permanent Forum invites the General Assembly to consider the creation of a distinct United Nations voluntary fund for indigenous youth or the earmarking of existing and future funds to increase and enhance the direct participation of indigenous youth at the United Nations. Furthermore, the Forum encourages every State Member of the United Nations to make multi-year voluntary contributions to such existing and/or future funds.

34. The Permanent Forum urges States to take the measures at the national level necessary for the prevention of self-harm and suicide among indigenous children and youth, in particular by promoting the training of experts in the field of psychology who focus on issues specific to indigenous peoples. Such special training should take into account economic, historical, social, ecological and other factors, such as the loss of indigenous languages, cultures and lands.

35. Building upon past work of the Permanent Forum with regard to indigenous women, in particular the study on the extent of violence against indigenous women and girls in terms of article 22 (2) of the United Nations Declaration (see E/C.19/2013/9) and the report of the international expert group meeting on combating such violence (see E/2012/43-E/C.19/2012/13) the Forum recommends that States adopt measures aimed at addressing the specific problems of police brutality, systemic police violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as experienced, for example, by indigenous women in Val-d'Or, Canada, Sepur Zarco, Guatemala, and north-east India.

36. The Permanent Forum welcomes the intention of the Commission on the Status of Women to make the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women a focus area of its sixty-first session, to be held in 2017. The Forum invites the Bureau of the Commission to consider organizing a half-day session on the issue. The Forum calls upon the Commission to consider the empowerment of indigenous women as a theme in future sessions, pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 69/2.

37. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women prepare a specific report on the situation of indigenous women's empowerment, in collaboration with the Forum and indigenous women's organizations, for submission to the Forum at its seventeenth session.

38. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to implement action to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women publish a factsheet, in collaboration with the Forum, on indigenous women's maternal mortality and maternal health, with the aim of reducing maternal mortality and promoting sexual and reproductive health.

39. The Permanent Forum urges Member States and funds, programmes and *specialized agencies of the United Nations system to implement actions to* strengthen the leadership and political participation of indigenous women.

40. Consistent with the commitments in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly resolution 69/2) and the standards for indigenous peoples' survival, dignity and well-being contained in the United Nations Declaration, the Permanent Forum recommends that States fully engage indigenous peoples in good-faith negotiations of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements on the basis of the unequivocal recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources and to fully reject the extinguishment of indigenous rights in form or result. Furthermore, the Forum recommends that States address the call for full and effective redress for the loss of lands, territories and resources and State breaches of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements. The Forum reiterates the urgent need for States to institute, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, high-level oversight bodies to guide and oversee the conduct of negotiations and implementation of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements in the light of ongoing negotiation and implementation issues. Building on the recommendations advanced at the eleventh session of the Forum, States are encouraged to support the resolution of disputes between indigenous peoples by providing financial and other methods of support to achieve peaceful resolution.

Environment

41. In accordance with the right to food security and food sovereignty, the Permanent Forum takes note of the Indigenous Terra Madre 2015 held in Shillong, Meghalaya, north-east India, from 3 to 7 November 2015 and convened by the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the government of Meghalaya and a number of non-governmental organizations and funding agencies. The event, including a food festival, was attended by delegates from 62 countries and 170 indigenous communities, who adopted the Shillong Declaration of Indigenous Terra Madre 2015. The Forum likewise commends the initiative to form the Indigenous Food Communities Alliance as an indigenous platform for promoting good, clean and fair food based on agroecological initiatives that respect Mother Earth, are culturally sensitive, value traditional practices and are based on indigenous traditional scientific knowledge.

42. In relation to the food security and food sovereignty of indigenous peoples, the Permanent Forum acknowledges indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, in particular that of indigenous women, and recognizes their cultural, social and environmental practices, which contribute to global efforts and initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. The Permanent Forum calls upon indigenous peoples to share with the world their cultural, social and environmental practices relating to the production and consumption of food, which are part of the solution to the global search for agricultural systems that are just, healthy, peaceful and sustainable.

44. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States, owing to the threat of biopiracy and the pharmaceutical industry, develop legislative measures, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, to protect traditional medicine

and knowledge, and to secure the rights of indigenous peoples to intellectual property.

45. While it is recognized that land and environmental degradation are factors of global concern, they have caused severe and stressful negative impacts among indigenous peoples as a result of land mismanagement such as the overexploitation of natural resources through factors such as mining and the overutilization of forest wood (timber) and other products. This has resulted in soil and water degradation, leading to the acceleration of the effects of climate change, low food production and uncertain livelihoods for communities. The Permanent Forum recommends that States stop development projects on indigenous peoples' lands that lack environmental impact assessments and certificates of free, prior and informed consent.

Culture

46. The Permanent Forum recognizes the recent formation of an ad hoc working group on international repatriation, with the participation of States, indigenous peoples and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UNESCO, and the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, which was reported at the 2016 session as another positive step forward in the implementation of recommendation No. 8 of the Forum at its fourteenth session.

47. The Permanent Forum requests UNESCO to host a joint seminar with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of exploring the development of a new international mechanism on the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains. Furthermore, the Forum calls upon all States with national repositories of indigenous cultural items and ancestral remains, including museums and universities, to work with UNESCO to create an international database and inventory of these items accessible to indigenous peoples as a basis for initiating dialogue.

48. The first World Indigenous Games, held in Palmas, Brazil, in November 2015, illustrates and highlights the implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum, as contained in articles 3, 31 and 43 of the United Nations Declaration, among others. The leadership of the Inter-Tribal Committee of Brazil and the peoples and Government of Brazil are commended for this endeavour to uphold the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the world. The Forum welcomes the organization of the second Games, planned for Canada in 2017.

Discussion on the theme "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution"

49. Indigenous peoples often find themselves involved in situations of conflict, mostly relating to their lands, territories and resources or their civil, political, cultural, social and economic rights. During violent conflicts, indigenous peoples are often among the most vulnerable groups as a result of the situations of poverty, political marginalization and systemic discrimination that many still face today. In nearly every region of the world, indigenous peoples are being displaced and severely affected by violence on their lands and territories. In some countries, indigenous peoples are victims of massacres carried out by the army or paramilitary

groups during conflicts. In many cases, indigenous women have been used as the "spoils of war" and subjected to sexual violence and rape. Indigenous children are sometimes forcibly recruited to participate in armed conflicts, leaving behind their homes and their childhood.

50. The Permanent Forum held two interactive discussions on the theme. The Forum invited the panellists to share examples of the kinds of conflict that indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, were facing around the world. The outcomes of the panel discussions are outlined in the recommendations below.

51. States should take effective measures to eliminate violence against indigenous peoples by studying the root causes of conflict and human rights abuses, developing indicators and methodologies for risk assessment and early warning mechanisms and improving national legislation for the administration of justice with regard to the perpetrators of war crimes.

52. Consistent with articles 7 and 30 of the United Nations Declaration, States should take measures for settlement, protection and security in the post-conflict period, and for the construction of durable and lasting peace, promoting the full and effective inclusion of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, in any initiative for peace and reconciliation.

53. The Permanent Forum notes that a key message of the 2016 session was the need to combat pervasive violations against indigenous human rights defenders, including criminalization, persecution, violence, imprisonment and killing.

54. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research established training on peace and conflict resolution for indigenous peoples in 2000 at indigenous peoples' request. It is one of the most important human rights training programmes in the United Nations system that examines the root causes of conflict.

55. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to contribute support to make possible the annual UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacemaking capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives so as to strengthen indigenous capacity to engage in negotiation, dialogue and peace processes to contribute to sustainable peace.

56. The Permanent Forum emphasizes that the protection, security and rights of indigenous girls and women in conflict settings constitute an urgent priority, including within the framework of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

57. Sexual and gender-based violence increases in settings of conflict. Sexual violence has also been used systematically as a weapon of war against indigenous women. In the light of the particular risks and vulnerabilities of indigenous women and girls relating to sexual and gender-based violence, the Permanent Forum recommends that Governments, local authorities, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and civil society collaborate with indigenous peoples to establish multisectoral and holistic approaches to combat the various forms of violence against women and girls.

58. Consistent with article 7 of the United Nations Declaration, the Permanent Forum recommends that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights urgently establish an independent international commission to investigate the assassination of Berta Cáceres and Nelson Garcia of the Lenca people of Honduras.

59. The Permanent Forum expresses its solidarity with the families of 43 trainee teachers of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, Mexico, who have been missing since 26 September 2014, and supports their efforts to seek justice. The Forum also welcomes and acknowledges the steps taken thus far by the Government of Mexico to resolve this disappearance, and encourages the Government to continue its efforts in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and in close consultation with the relevant indigenous peoples and families.

60. With reference to article 42 of the United Nations Declaration, the Permanent Forum invites African States, in particular Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda, to present, at its sixteenth session, information on the situation of indigenous peoples affected by conflict in those countries.

61. The Permanent Forum urges the international community to support the peace process in Mali and establish an independent monitoring committee that, in accordance with articles 7 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration, would oversee the implementation of the peace agreement of 20 June 2015, with the effective and representative participation of the Tuareg peoples.

62. Owing to the particular vulnerability of indigenous peoples in conflict situations, the Permanent Forum recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and regional peacekeeping forces factor the protection of indigenous peoples into analysis, planning and guidance on the protection of civilians.

63. The Permanent Forum is concerned at the lack of implementation of its previous recommendations that States implement the agreements reached in peace accords, and encourages States to engage in constructive dialogue with indigenous peoples, including the Maya, Garifuna, Xinka, Jumma, Kanak, Naga, Chin, Amazigh, Tuareg and Maohis peoples, and provide information to the Forum at its sixteenth session on the status of the agreements. In accordance with articles 3, 4, 5, 18 and 27 of the United Nations Declaration, the Forum urges the States concerned to engage in implementation with the full participation of indigenous peoples.

64. The religious, spiritual and cultural sites of indigenous peoples, including the Ktunaxa Nation in Canada, the Aboriginal people of Australia, the Maya of Guatemala and the Amazigh peoples, continue to face destruction. This has profoundly negative impacts on indigenous peoples, including affecting their sacred practices. Consistent with articles 11, 12, 13, 19, 25, 31 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration and paragraphs 20 and 27 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends that, in their national action plans, strategies and other measures, States:

(a) Take effective measures to ensure that indigenous peoples' spiritual and cultural sites are protected;

(b) Ensure that, consistent with article 32 of the United Nations Declaration, indigenous peoples are not forced to defend these rights against proposed development projects or through litigation in courts;

(c) Actively resolve disputes directly with indigenous peoples, consistent with article 19 of the United Nations Declaration, given that these rights constitute critical elements of the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

65. During this session, a number of issues were discussed that were outlined in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The discussions focused on the development of a system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration; support for the establishment of consultative mechanisms between States and indigenous peoples at the national level to develop national action plans; review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at the United Nations.

66. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/232 on the rights of indigenous peoples, requested the President of the Assembly, to conduct, within existing resources, timely, inclusive, representative and transparent consultations with Member States, indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary, including procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. The Assembly also requested the President to prepare a compilation of the views presented during the consultations, including good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation, which would form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the Assembly during its seventy-first session. To assist him in implementing this mandate, the President of the Assembly has appointed two advisers from Member States and two advisers from indigenous peoples.

67. Taking into account paragraphs 11, 14, 15, 17 and 26 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and article 23 of the United Nations Declaration, the Permanent Forum reminds Member States of the need to implement their commitments through national action plans, strategies or other measures, developed jointly and effectively with indigenous representatives on the basis of the right of free, prior and informed consent, in particular to ensure the adequate training and availability of health professionals in indigenous communities as a matter of urgency.

68. The Permanent Forum welcomes the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of James Anaya (United States of America), Claire Charters (Aotearoa/New Zealand), the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, Kai Sauer, and the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, as his advisers and fully supports their efforts to identify ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. The expert members of the Forum look forward to focused discussion and fruitful collaboration with them as they endeavour to finalize their mandate.

Dialogues with indigenous peoples' organizations, States and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies

69. The Permanent Forum conducted three focused, interactive dialogues with indigenous peoples, Member States and funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies as part of

the reform of the methods of work, as well as to provide an opportunity to focus on specific issues and identify ways forward. There was general support for the closed meetings and the opportunity to have a space in which to address important issues. This initiative will be continued in future sessions.

70. The dialogue with indigenous peoples included discussions on a number of topics, including follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in particular the implementation of national action plans, recommendations of the Permanent Forum and new methods of work and the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration.

Dialogue with Member States

71. As a result of the dialogue between the expert members of the Permanent Forum and Member States, the Forum recommends that all Member States:

(a) Prepare, for the Forum at its sixteenth session, reports on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration in their countries, with a focus on progress and outstanding issues, in particular in relation to legislative measures;

(b) In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration, organize activities to commemorate the adoption at various levels, from local to national, including to raise public awareness of the Declaration and the progress achieved.

Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies

72. On the basis of the constructive dialogue between the Permanent Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, the Forum recommends that the members of the Support Group demonstrate strong commitment from the highest level, including by:

(a) Institutionalizing dialogue between the expert members of the Forum and the principals of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

(b) Allocating sufficient resources to implement the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration;

(c) Establishing institutional consultation mechanisms to ensure active collaboration and partnership with indigenous peoples at the national, regional and global levels, in both developing and developed countries;

(d) Incorporating specific targets and indicators with disaggregated data to address the key issues and priorities of indigenous peoples at the national level;

(e) Ensuring active cooperation between the Support Group and Forum members holding relevant agency portfolios.

73. The Permanent Forum requests the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group to include in their annual reports to the Forum information on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan.

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

74. Given the holistic and integral vision of indigenous peoples, the Sustainable Development Goals must be implemented in a comprehensive way, taking into account that the absence of a single element would lead to a lack of equilibrium and harmony in relationships between human beings and Mother Nature. The Permanent Forum recommends that States and United Nations agencies widely disseminate the Goals to indigenous peoples, using culturally appropriate educational tools and in indigenous languages, observing protocols and times suitable for such dissemination, given the lack of knowledge about them.

75. Building upon the study prepared by members of the Permanent Forum on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on challenges faced with respect to the full enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in development (see E/C.19/2013/6), and in the light of the call in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "leave no one behind", the Forum is concerned that the experiences and rights of indigenous persons with disabilities require further study and examination. In that regard, the Forum calls upon the secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as the focal point within the United Nations system on matters relating to disability, to conduct a qualitative study with regard to indigenous persons with disabilities, in all seven regions of the world.

Chapter II
Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

76. By its decision 2015/249, the Economic and Social Council decided that the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2016.

77. At its 2nd and 8th meetings, on 9 and 13 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled "Follow-up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the documents entitled "Study on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean" (E/C.19/2016/3), "Study on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law" (E/C.19/2016/4), "System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (E/C.19/2016/5 and Corr.1), "Compilation of information from Member States on addressing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum" (E/C.19/2016/6), "Compilation of information from national human rights institutions" (E/C.19/2016/7), "Compilation of information received from funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum" (E/C.19/2016/8), "Compilation of information received from indigenous people's organizations" (E/C.19/2016/9), and "Expert group meeting on the theme 'Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)'" (E/C.19/2016/10). At its 17th meeting, on 20 May, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. B).

78. At its 3rd to 6th and 15th and 16th meetings, from 10 to 12 and on 19 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 4, entitled "Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

79. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 17 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5, entitled "Discussion on the theme 'Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution'". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

80. At its 7th meeting, on 12 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 6, entitled "Dialogue with indigenous peoples". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

81. At its 11th meeting, on 16 May, the Permanent Forum considered item 7, entitled "Dialogue with Member States". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

82. At its 9th meeting, on 13 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 8, entitled "Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the

United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

83. At its 10th meeting, on 16 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 9, entitled "Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples", sub-items (a) ("Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples") and (b) ("Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"), during which there was a dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples with a specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 9 (see chap. I, sect. B).

84. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 10, entitled "Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues", to discuss, among other things, its methods of work and indigenous human development and human rights indicators. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda" (E/C.19/2016/2). At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision and its recommendations submitted under agenda item 10 (see chap. I, sects. A and B).

85. At its 17th meeting, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 11, entitled "Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session". At the same meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its fifteenth session

86. At its 17th meeting, on 20 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its fifteenth session.

87. At the same meeting, the Permanent Forum adopted its draft report.

Chapter IV
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

88. The Permanent Forum held its fifteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2016. It held 17 formal meetings and 3 closed meetings to consider the items on its agenda.

89. At the 1st meeting, on 9 May, the session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. At the opening ceremony, Tadodaho Sid Hill, of the Onondaga Nation, delivered a welcoming address. The Secretary-General delivered a video message. The President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council delivered statements.

90. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Minister of Labour and Social Prevention of Guatemala and the Minister of Justice of Canada.

91. At the 17th meeting, the Secretary-General made a statement.

B. Attendance

92. Members of the Permanent Forum and representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental and indigenous organizations attended the session. The list of participants will be published at a later date.

C. Election of officers

93. At its 1st meeting, on 9 May, the Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chair:
Alvaro Pop

Vice-Chairs:
Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine
Aysa B. Mukabenova
Dalee Sambo Dorough
Raja Devasish Roy

Rapporteur:
Oliver Loode

D. Agenda

94. Also at its 1st meeting, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.19/2016/1, E/C.19/2016/1 as orally amended.

E. Documentation

95. The list of the documents before the Permanent Forum at its fifteenth session will be published at a later date.

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